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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,226	03/26/2004	Hermann Wagner	C1041.70005US01	1072
7590 03/09/2009				
Helen C. Lockhart Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C. 600 Atlantic Avenue Boston, MA 02210				
EXAMINER				
ZARA, JANE J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1635				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/09/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,226

Applicant(s)

WAGNER ET AL

Examiner

Jane Zara

Art Unit

1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2-13-08, 10-26-06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the communication filed 3-26-04.

Claims 24-30 are pending in the instant application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Reference C-2 in the IDS filed 10-26-06 has not been considered because there is no date listed in the citation for this reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krieg et al (USPN 6,239,116) in view of Falo et al (USPN 5,951,975).

The claims are drawn to methods of modulating an immune response in a subject comprising the biolistic delivery of a composition comprising a polynucleotide between 5-40 nucleotides in length and comprising the motif 5' Pur-Pur-CpG-Py-C 3', which is optionally 5' Pu-Pu-CpG-(T or U)C, and which composition optionally further comprises an antigen.

Krieg et al (USPN 6,239,116) teach methods of modulating an immune response in a subject comprising the administration of immunomodulatory compositions comprising a polynucleotide between 5-40 nucleotides in length comprising 5' PuPuCpGTC 3' or 5' PuPuCpGUC 3', and which composition further comprises an antigen (see entire document, esp. the abstract, col. 5-8, 11-16, 45-47, claims 1-12, 14-24, 26-38, 40-49; SEQ ID NO. 5).

Krieg does not teach biolistic administration of immunomodulatory compositions.

Falo et al (USPN 5,951,975) teach the biolistic administration of immunomodulatory compositions, including antigen delivery, for efficient delivery in a subject (see esp. col. 9-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to design an immunomodulatory oligonucleotide comprising the motif 5' PurPurCpG(T or U)C 3' because CpG were well known immunomodulatory agents used for adjuvants and to bolster an immune response in a subject, and because oligonucleotides with this motif were previously disclosed by Krieg for use as an immunomodulatory oligonucleotide,

including co-administering this oligonucleotide in combination with an antigen. One of skill in the art would have expected that this composition would provide for immune activation, and that the unmethylated CpG oligonucleotide boosts immune response in a subject, including in the presence of antigens, as taught previously by Krieg et al. One would have been motivated to deliver these immunomodulatory compositions via biolistic delivery to a subject because Falo teaches this delivery method for effective antigen delivery in a subject. One of skill in the art therefore would have had a reasonable expectation of success in immunomodulating a subject's immune system by biolistically delivering the instant claimed compositions.

For these reasons, the instant invention would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time of the instant invention.

Conclusion

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1635 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. ' 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone number for the Group is 571-273-8300. NOTE: If Applicant does submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Zara whose telephone number is (571) 272-0765. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James (Douglas) Schultz, can be reached on (571) 272-0763. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jane Zara
3-5-09

/Jane Zara/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1635